Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 L-03 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /066 W

R 112053Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2429
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA BY POUCH

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UNCLAS OTTAWA 0548

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJ: FMC REGULATION INVOLVING CANADIAN PORTS

REF: HALIFAX 58

- 1. CANADIAN MEDIA GIVING PROMINENT PLAY TO SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH BY FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BAKKE SUGGESTING FMC PLANS REGULATE SHIPPING OF U.S. CARGOES THROUGH CANADIAN PORTS BECAUSE U.S. PORTS ARE LOSING LARGE AMOUNTS OF BUSINESS.
- 2. PRESS QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED MOT OFFICIAL AS COMMENTING THAT IT IS CANADA WHICH HAS THE GRIEVANCE NOT THE U.S. REFERS TO 1976 CONTAINER DEFICIT AMOUNT TO 32,521 UNITS OF "TEN TON CAPACITY", LARGELY ON THE WEST COAST WHERE BOXES MOVE THROUGH SEATTLE AND OAKLAND AT EXPANSE OF VANCOUVER. THIS OFFICIAL ALSO NOTED THERE IS GENERALLY A PROBLEM OF RECONCILING U.S. AND CANADIAN STATISTICS IN SHIPPING AREA AS U.S. FIGURES INCLUDE MOVEMENTS OF U.S. GRAINS FROM CANADIAN PORTS WHILE CANADIAN FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE THAT TRAFFIC.

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EM COMMENT: DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERABLE VOLUMES OF CANADIAN CONTAINER CARGOES MOVING THROUGH U.S. WEST COAST PORTS, AS CITED BY UNNAMED OFFICIAL ABOVE, SEALAND AND OTHER OPERATORS MOVE SIGNIFICANT VOLUMES FROM TORONTO AND MONTREAL THROUGH THE PORT OF NEW YORK. PRESSURES TO RESTRICT CANADIAN MOVEMENTS TO CANADIAN PORTS -- EVEN THOUGH THE SHIPPING SERVICES ARE LESS THAN

ADEQUATE--WILL BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP IF FMC TAKES UNILATERAL ACTION CONSIDERED UNFAVORABLE IN CANADA. WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SIMILAR PROPOSAL BY FORMER FMC CHAIRMAN HELEN BENTLEY ABOUT 1972 AROUSED CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL FLAK IN CANADA.

4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY TEXT OF BAKKE SPEECH AND COPIES OF ANY SUPPORTING STUDIES AS WELL AS COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CARGO HANDLING, PORT AUTHORITY, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS

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Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

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Subject: FMC REGULATION INVOLVING CANADIAN PORTS

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